

**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

Donald B. Georgia, Jr.

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Cape May County, NJ  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Larry Bendesky, Esq., Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky P.C.  
1650 Market Street, 52nd Floor  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

**DEFENDANTS**

National Seating and Mobility, Inc.; Permobil AB; Permobil, Inc.;  
Permobil Meditech, Inc.; Permobil Pasco, LLC; Tim Flanagan; Brian  
Ward; Robert Eagle; Gina Mastrogiorganni; and Jim Golick

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF  
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

William J. Ricci, Esq.  
1515 Market St., Ste. 700  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Kathleen Wilkinson, Esq.  
Two Commerce Square, 2001 Market St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question  
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☒ 4 Diversity  
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- |   | PTF                                   | DEF                        |   | PTF                        | DEF                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1            | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4            |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6            |

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b> <b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 Original Proceeding ☒ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

28 U.S.C. § 1332

Brief description of cause:

Plaintiff is a citizen of NJ; Defendants that were properly joined and served are not citizens of NJ or PA.

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☒ No**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

02/19/2019

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

**DESIGNATION FORM**

*(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)*

Address of Plaintiff: 3700 New Jersey Avenue, Unit 209, Wildwood, New Jersey 08260

Address of Defendant: (See attached)

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 3/2017 purchase; 10/24/2017 and 4/17/2018 injury

**RELATED CASE, IF ANY:**

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_

Civil cases are deemed related when **Yes** is answered to any of the following questions:

- |  |                              |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual?  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case ☐ is / ☒ is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 02/19/2019

*William J. Ricci*  
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

27708

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

**CIVIL: (Place a ✓ in one category only)**

**A. Federal Question Cases:**

- ☐ 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
- ☐ 2. FELA
- ☐ 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury
- ☐ 4. Antitrust
- ☐ 5. Patent
- ☐ 6. Labor-Management Relations
- ☐ 7. Civil Rights
- ☐ 8. Habeas Corpus
- ☐ 9. Securities Act(s) Cases
- ☐ 10. Social Security Review Cases
- ☐ 11. All other Federal Question Cases

(Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:**

- ☐ 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
- ☐ 2. Airplane Personal Injury
- ☐ 3. Assault, Defamation
- ☐ 4. Marine Personal Injury
- ☐ 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
- ☐ 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ 7. Products Liability
- ☐ 8. Products Liability – Asbestos
- ☐ 9. All other Diversity Cases

(Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION**

*(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)*

I, William J. Ricci, counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:

☒ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:

☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

DATE: 02/19/2019

*William J. Ricci*  
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

27708

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

**Attachment to Designation Form – Defendants’ Addresses:**

**Permobil, Inc**

300 Duke Drive  
Lebanon, TN 37090

**Permobil AB**

Per Uddens vag 20  
Timra, 861 23  
Sweden

**Permobil Pasco, LLC**

2701 W. Court Street  
Pasco, WA 99301

**Permobil Meditech, Inc.**

None (no longer in existence)

**National Seating and Mobility, Inc.**

318 Seaboard Lane  
Suite 202  
Franklin, TN 37067

**Tim Flanagan**

1957 Pioneer Road  
Building C  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006  
(per Complaint – personal address unknown)

**Brian Ward**

1957 Pioneer Road  
Building C  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006  
(per Complaint – personal address unknown)

**Robert Eagles**

1957 Pioneer Road  
Building C  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006  
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**Gina Mastrogiovanni**

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Building C  
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**Jim Golick**

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

## DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: 3700 New Jersey Avenue, Unit 209, Wildwood, New Jersey 08260Address of Defendant: (See attached)Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 3/2017 purchase; 10/24/2017 and 4/17/2018 injury**RELATED CASE, IF ANY:**

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_

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- |  |                              |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|
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| 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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| 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual?  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case ☐ is / ☒ is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.DATE: 02/19/2019  
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff27708

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

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- ☐ 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury
- ☐ 4. Antitrust
- ☐ 5. Patent
- ☐ 6. Labor-Management Relations
- ☐ 7. Civil Rights
- ☐ 8. Habeas Corpus
- ☐ 9. Securities Act(s) Cases
- ☐ 10. Social Security Review Cases
- ☐ 11. All other Federal Question Cases  
(Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:**

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- ☐ 2. Airplane Personal Injury
- ☐ 3. Assault, Defamation
- ☐ 4. Marine Personal Injury
- ☐ 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
- ☐ 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ 7. Products Liability
- ☐ 8. Products Liability – Asbestos
- ☐ 9. All other Diversity Cases  
(Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION**

(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)

I, William J. Ricci, counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:☒ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.DATE: 02/19/2019  
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff27708

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Sweden

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Pasco, WA 99301

**Permobil Meditech, Inc.**  
None (no longer in existence)

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**Gina Mastrogiovanni**  
1957 Pioneer Road  
Building C  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006  
(per Complaint – personal address unknown)

**Jim Golick**

1957 Pioneer Road

Building C

Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

(per Complaint – personal address unknown)



**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM**

Donald B. Georgia, Jr.	:	CIVIL ACTION
	:	
v.	:	
	:	NO.
Permobil, Inc. et al	:	

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

**SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:**

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. ( )
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ( )
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ( )
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ( )
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) ( )
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (X)

2/19/19  
Date

*W. J. P. [Signature]*  
Attorney-at-law

Permobil, Inc.  
Attorney for

215-320-2073  
Telephone

215-320-3261  
FAX Number

bricci@rtjglaw.com  
E-Mail Address



**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

DONALD B. GEORGIA, JR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

NATIONAL SEATING AND MOBILITY, INC.;  
PERMOBIL AB;  
PERMOBIL, INC.;  
PERMOBIL MEDITECH, INC.;  
PERMOBIL PASCO, LLC;  
TIM FLANAGAN;  
BRIAN WARD;  
ROBERT EAGLE  
GINA MASTROGIOVANNI; AND  
JIM GOLICK

Defendants.

**CIVIL ACTION**

**NO.**

**DEFENDANT PERMOBIL, INC.'S NOTICE OF FILING REMOVAL**

**TO: THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES  
DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Moving Defendant, Permobil, Inc. ("Permobil") files this Notice of Removal pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441 to remove to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania the civil action styled *Donald B. Georgia, Jr. v. National Seating and Mobility, Inc., et al.*, December Term, 2018, Case No. 1570, pending in the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County. The grounds for removal are as follows:

1. Jurisdiction is appropriate pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332.
  2. Complete diversity exists between the Plaintiff and all properly joined and served defendants.
  3. Plaintiff Donald B. Georgia, Jr. ("Plaintiff") is a resident of Wildwood, New Jersey.
- See Complaint at ¶ 1. A copy of Plaintiff's Complaint is attached hereto as **"Exhibit A."**

4. Permobil is a motorized wheelchair manufacturer, with its principal place of business in Lebanon, Tennessee and is incorporated in Tennessee. Thus, it is a citizen of Tennessee and not New Jersey.

5. Permobil AB has not been served and disputes jurisdiction and venue. It is a foreign corporation with its principal place of business in Sweden. *See* Affidavit of Chris Javillonar at ¶ 6. A copy of the Affidavit is attached hereto as “**Exhibit B.**” Thus, it is a citizen of Sweden and not New Jersey. As it has not been served, its consent is not required to remove. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).

6. Permobil Pasco, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Permobil. It did not design, manufacture or sell Plaintiff’s wheelchair. *Id.* at ¶ 7. It has not been properly served and disputes jurisdiction and venue. *Id.* at ¶¶ 5, 9. Permobil is the sole member of Permobil Pasco, LLC. Thus, Permobil Pasco, LLC is a citizen Tennessee and not New Jersey. As it has not been properly served, its consent is not required to remove. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).

7. Permobil Meditech, Inc. is a dissolved corporation that no longer exists. *Id.* at ¶ 11. It has no principal place of business or state of incorporation. *Id.* When it existed prior to 2008, Permobil Meditech, Inc.’s principal place of business was located in Massachusetts and it was incorporated in Delaware. *Id.* at ¶ 12. It did not design, manufacture or sell Plaintiff’s wheelchair and disputes service, jurisdiction and venue. *Id.* at ¶ 10. It is not a citizen of New Jersey. Permobil Meditech, Inc. does not exist and therefore lacks the ability to consent to removal, however, its consent is unnecessary as it has not been properly served. *Id.* at 13; 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).

8. National Seating and Mobility, Inc. (“NSM”) distributes wheelchairs. It has its principal place of business in Tennessee and is incorporated in Tennessee. Thus, it is a citizen of

Tennessee and not New Jersey. NSM consents to the removal of this action. *See* Consent of NSM, attached hereto as “**Exhibit C.**”

9. The remaining individually named defendants, Tim Flanagan, Brian Ward, Robert Eagle, Gina Mastrogiovanni, and Jim Golick (the “Individual Defendants”) are purportedly citizens of Pennsylvania. Therefore, they are not citizens of New Jersey. However, as explained below, for purposes of determining diversity of citizenship, their citizenship may be ignored as they have been fraudulently joined. *Ayala-Castro v. GlaxoSmithKline (In re Avandia Mktg.)*, 624 F. Supp. 2d 396, 411 (E.D. Pa. 2009). In addition, their consent is not required. *Reeser v. NGK Metals Corp.*, 247 F. Supp. 2d 626 (E.D. Pa. 2003).

**I. Removal Based on Diversity of Citizenship under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)**

10. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 and this action is removable pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441 because the parties *who were properly joined and served* are diverse, and because the amount in controversy appears to be in excess of \$75,000.

11. As set forth above, all properly joined and served defendants, Permobil and NSM, are citizens of states other than New Jersey.

12. Upon information and belief, the amount in controversy is in excess of \$75,000.

13. Plaintiff’s Complaint seeks damages in the state court jurisdictional amount which is in excess of \$50,000. *See Exhibit A* at p. 16.

14. Plaintiff alleges that he was caused to incur, and will continue to incur, medical expenses for care and treatment. *Id.* at ¶ 49.

15. Plaintiff alleges that he has had both legs amputated. *Id.* at ¶¶46-47.

16. Plaintiff alleges that he suffered, and will continue to suffer, agonizing aches, pain and mental anguish and has sustained a loss of enjoyment of life, life's pleasures and life's hedonic pleasures past, present and future. *Id.* at ¶ 50.

17. Plaintiff also alleges that he has been prevented, and will be prevented in the future, from performing his usual duties, activities, occupations and avocations, and has suffered a loss of earnings and a loss of earning capacity. *Id.* at ¶ 51.

18. Therefore, the amount in controversy in the instant action, based on the allegations and averments contained in Plaintiff's Complaint, will exceed \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs. *See, e.g., Ciglar v. Ruby Tuesday, Inc.*, No. CIV.09-239, 2009 WL 737367, at \*5 (E.D. Pa. Mar. 19, 2009) ("Plaintiff's allegations, if proven, could certainly result in a damage award greater than \$75,000, in alleging that he suffered serious and permanently disabling injuries, requiring repeated doctors' visits, multiple MRIs, and six months of physical therapy consisting of 'spinal manipulation, manual traction, deep tissue massage, hydrotherapy, and exercise therapy, and that as a result of his injuries, he suffered from agonizing aches and severe mental anguish that may require future treatment and may preclude him from resuming his regular occupation.'") *See also McMonagle v. Franklin Mills Assocs. LP*, No. 06-4451, 2007 WL 773715, \*2 (E.D. Pa. Mar. 8, 2007) (allegations of "severe and permanent injuries to various parts of [plaintiff's] body that have required, and may continue to require, medical care" resulting in "severe loss of earning capacity," coupled with plaintiff's demand for damages "in excess" of \$50,000, satisfied the amount in controversy requirement).

**A. The Citizenship of the Individual Defendants Should Be Disregarded and the Claims Against Them Should Be Dismissed Due to Fraudulent Joinder**

19. A civil action otherwise removable under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) may not be removed if any of the parties in interest properly joined and served as defendants is a citizen of the State in

which such action is brought. 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b)(2). This restriction is known as the “forum defendant” rule.

20. In this instance, only the Individual Defendants are alleged to be citizens of Pennsylvania. However, these defendants have been fraudulently joined and therefore, their citizenship is ignored for determining whether removal is appropriate.

21. The doctrine of fraudulent joinder prevents a plaintiff from joining a non-diverse defendant to defeat federal removal jurisdiction. *Ayala-Castro v. GlaxoSmithKline (In re Avandia Mktg.)*, 624 F. Supp. 2d 396, 411 (E.D. Pa. 2009).

22. “A district court may base a finding of fraudulent joinder on factual or legal grounds. Under the test established by the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, such a finding is appropriate ‘where there is no reasonable basis in fact or colorable ground supporting the claim against the joined defendant, or no real intention in good faith to prosecute the action against the defendant or seek a joint judgment.’ To assess the quality of a claim in these regards, a district court must look to the requirements of state law.” *Ayala-Castro v. GlaxoSmithKline (In re Avandia Mktg.)*, 624 F. Supp. 2d at 411-12.

23. A claim is colorable if it is not “wholly insubstantial and frivolous” in light of the relevant law. *Id.*

24. Pennsylvania is a fact-pleading state; a complaint must not only give the defendant notice of what the plaintiff’s claim is and the grounds upon which it rests, but the complaint must also formulate the issues by summarizing those facts essential to support the claim. *Lerner v. Lerner*, 2008 PA Super 183, ¶ 12, 954 A.2d 1229, 1235.

25. Pa. R.C.P. 1019 specifically require[s] the pleader to disclose the material facts sufficient to enable the adverse party to prepare his case. A complaint therefore must do more than

give the defendant fair notice of what the plaintiff's claim is and the grounds upon which it rests. It should formulate the issues by fully summarizing the material facts. Material facts are ultimate facts, i.e., those facts essential to support the claim. *Lerner v. Lerner*, 2008 PA Super 183 at 1235-36.

26. Here, Plaintiff's Complaint is devoid of any reasonable basis in fact or colorable ground supporting the joinder of the Individual Defendants.

27. The factual predicate for the claims set forth in Plaintiff's Complaint are sounded in strict products liability, i.e. Plaintiff has alleged that (1) Plaintiff's F3 Corpus Wheelchair ("wheelchair") was defective in design, manufacture, and warnings, (2) the wheelchair was placed into the stream of commerce by the Corporate Defendants, (3) in or around March 2017, the tilt function on Plaintiff's wheelchair broke, (4) the danger presented by the wheelchair was unknowable and unacceptable to the average or ordinary consumer, and (5) the wheelchair was expected to and did reach users without substantial change in the condition in which it was placed into the stream of commerce. See **Exhibit A** at ¶ 33, ¶ 56, ¶¶ 60-61.

28. Strict liability in tort for product defects is a cause of action which implicates the social and economic policy of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The strict liability theory is a distinct cause of action in tort: those who sell a product (i.e., profit from making and putting a product in the stream of commerce) are held responsible for damage caused to a consumer by the reasonable use of the product. The risk of injury is placed, therefore, upon the supplier of products. *Tincher v. Omega Flex*, 628 Pa. 296, 385-86, 104 A.3d 328, 381-82 (2014).

29. The duty in strict liability pertains to the duty of a manufacturer and of suppliers in the chain of distribution to the ultimate consumer. *Tincher v. Omega Flex*, 628 Pa. 296 at 383.

30. The duty spoken of in strict liability is intended to be distinct from the duty of due care in negligence. *Id.* at 387.

31. Individual liability arises only when the agent or employee owes an independent duty of reasonable care to the injured party apart from the employer's duty. *Chuy v. Philadelphia Eagles Football Club*, 595 F.2d 1265, 1276 (3d Cir. 1979).

32. Notably, Plaintiff's Complaint attempts to treat the Individual Defendants and the Corporate Defendants as one in the same. *See Exhibit A* at ¶¶ 30-41.

33. In the "negligence" count of Plaintiff's Complaint, Plaintiff fails to set forth any specific duty of care the Individual Defendants owed to Plaintiff under the circumstances. *See Exhibit A* at ¶¶ 54-58.

34. Plaintiff's Complaint lacks any specific allegation that the Individual Defendants committed any independent acts of negligence that caused or contributed to Plaintiff's accident. *See Id.* In fact, Plaintiff merely lumps the Individual Defendants with the corporate defendants in referring to all defendants globally as "Defendants."

35. Plaintiff failed to plead any viable causes of action against the Individual Defendants.

36. Moreover, the generalized allegations set forth in Plaintiff's Complaint, as well as the absent of specific allegations against the Individual Defendants, demonstrates a lack of good faith intent to pursue any claims against the Individual Defendants.

**B. Proper Procedure for Removal of this Civil Action was Followed**

37. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(1), to be timely, a notice of removal of a civil action or proceeding shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the receipt by the defendant, through



service or otherwise of the initial pleading setting forth the claim for relief upon which such action or proceeding is based.

38. Plaintiff filed his civil action Complaint on January 29, 2019. *See Exhibit A.*

39. Plaintiff served Permobil with a copy of the Complaint on January 29, 2019. *See service on Permobil attached hereto as “Exhibit D.”*

40. Thus, this Notice of Removal is timely filed with the Court as it is within thirty (30) days of the Complaint being filed and served upon Permobil.

41. Although venue is improper as NSM’s distributing center is located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, venue is still proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) because the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas and Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas are both located within the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Therefore, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania is an appropriate venue for removal purposes pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1441.

42. All properly joined and served defendants, Permobil, Inc. and NSM, consent to the removal of this action. **Exhibit C.**

43. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), Permobil has attached a copy of all process, pleadings, and orders served upon it in this action. *See Exhibits A, D. See also* Preacipe and Writ of Summons attached hereto as **“Exhibit E.”**


44. After filing this Notice of Removal, Permobil will file a copy with the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, and will provide Notice of Removal to the Adverse Party, as provided by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).

WHEREFORE, Permobil, Inc. respectfully provides notice of the removal of this action from the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, to the United States District

Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for all further proceedings and prays for such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: Feb 19 2019

**RICCI TYRELL JOHNSON & GREY**

By:   
William J. Ricci  
Identification No. 27708  
1515 Market Street, Suite 700  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
P: 215-320-2089  
F: 215-320-3261  
[bricci@rtjglaw.com](mailto:bricci@rtjglaw.com)

and

**MAUER LAW FIRM, P.C.**

Debbie Moeller, Esq. – *to be admitted pro hac*  
Carlene S. Iverson, Esq. – *to be admitted pro hac*  
1100 Main Street, Suite 2100  
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[csiverson@mauerlawfirm.com](mailto:csiverson@mauerlawfirm.com)

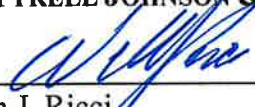
**ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT PERMOBIL, INC.**

**VERIFICATION**

I, William J. Ricci, hereby state the facts set forth in the foregoing Notice of Removal are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that this statement is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Dated: Feb 19, 2019

**RICCI TYRELL JOHNSON & GREY**

By:   
William J. Ricci  
Identification No. 27708  
1515 Market Street, Suite 700  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
P: 215-320-2089  
F: 215-320-3261  
[bricci@rtjglaw.com](mailto:bricci@rtjglaw.com)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned counsel hereby verifies/certifies that on this day, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Removal was served, via first-class mail, on the following persons:


Larry Bendesky, Esq.  
Adam J. Pantano, Esq.  
Scott A. Fellmeth, Esq.  
**Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky P.C.**  
1650 Market Street, 52<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff Donald B. Georgia, Jr.*

and

Kathleen Wilkinson, Esq.  
**Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP**  
Two Commerce Square, 2001 Market Street, Suite 3100  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103  
*Attorney for Defendant National Seating & Mobility, Inc.*

Dated: Feb. 19, 2019

**RICCI TYRELL JOHNSON & GREY**

By:   
William J. Ricci  
Identification No. 27708  
1515 Market Street, Suite 700  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102  
P: 215-320-2089  
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and

**MAUER LAW FIRM, P.C.**  
Debbie Moeller, Esq. – *to be admitted pro hac*  
Carlene S. Iverson, Esq. – *to be admitted pro hac*  
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[csiverson@mauerlawfirm.com](mailto:csiverson@mauerlawfirm.com)

**ATTORNEYS FOR MOVING DEFENDANT PERMOBIL, INC.**

# **Exhibit “A”**

**SALTZ, MONGELUZZI, BARRETT & BENDESKY, P.C.**

BY: LARRY BENDESKY/ADAM J. PANTANO/

SCOTT A. FELLMETH

IDENTIFICATION NO: 51026/85261/321505

1650 MARKET STREET

52ND FLOOR

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103

(215) 496-8282

Filed and Attested by the  
Office of Judicial Records  
29 JAN 2019 10:03 am  
M. RUSSO

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

<p>DONALD B. GEORGIA, JR. 3700 New Jersey Avenue, Unit 209 Wildwood, NJ 08260</p> <p>Plaintiff,</p> <p>v.</p> <p>NATIONAL SEATING AND MOBILITY, INC. 1957 Pioneer Road Building C Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006</p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p>PERMOBIL AB Per Uddens vag 20 Timra, 861 23 Sweden</p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p>PERMOBIL, INC. 300 Duke Drive, Lebanon, TN 37090</p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p>PERMOBIL MEDITECH, INC. 300 Duke Drive, Lebanon, TN 37090</p> <p><i>And</i></p> <p>PERMOBIL PASCO, LLC 300 Duke Drive Lebanon, TN 37090</p>	<p>PHILADELPHIA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CIVIL DIVISION</p> <p>DECEMBER TERM, 2018</p> <p>No.: 1570</p> <p>JURY TRIAL DEMANDED</p>
--	--



*And*

TIM FLANAGAN  
1957 Pioneer Road  
Building C  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

*And*

BRIAN WARD  
1957 Pioneer Road  
Building C  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

*And*

ROBERT EAGLE  
1957 Pioneer Road  
Building C  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

*And*

GINA MASTROGIOVANNI  
1957 Pioneer Road  
Building C  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

*And*

JIM GOLICK  
1957 Pioneer Road  
Building C  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

Defendants.

**COMPLAINT – CIVIL ACTION**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“NOTICE</b></p> <p>“You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by an attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.</p> <p><b>YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.</b></p> <p><u>THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER.</u>  <u>IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE.</u></p> <p>PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION  LAWYER REFERRAL and INFORMATION SERVICE  One Reading Center  Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107  (215) 238-1701</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“AVISO</b></p> <p>“Le han demandado en corte. Si usted quiere defenderse contra las demandas nombradas en las páginas siguientes, tiene veinte (20) días, a partir de recibir esta demanda y la notificación para entablar personalmente o por un abogado una comparecencia escrita y también para entablar con la corte en forma escrita sus defensas y objeciones a las demandas contra usted. Sea avisado que si usted no se defiende, el caso puede continuar sin usted y la corte puede incorporar un juicio contra usted sin previo aviso para conseguir el dinero demandado en el pleito o para conseguir cualquier otra demanda o alivio solicitados por el demandante. Usted puede perder dinero o propiedad u otros derechos importantes para usted.</p> <p><b>USTED DEBE LLEVAR ESTE DOCUMENTO A SU ABOGADO INMEDIATAMENTE. SI USTED NO TIENE ABOGADO (O NO TIENE DINERO SUFICIENTE PARA PAGAR A UN ABOGADO), VAYA EN PERSONA O LLAME POR TELEFONO LA OFICINA NOMBRADA ABAJO PARA AVERIGUAR DONDE SE PUEDE CONSEGUIR ASISTENCIA LEGAL. <u>ESTA OFICINA PUEDE PROPORCIONARLE LA INFORMACION SOBRE CONTRATAR A UN ABOGADO.</u></b></p> <p><u>SI USTED NO TIENE DINERO SUFICIENTE PARA PAGAR A UN ABOGADO, ESTA OFICINA PUEDE PROPORCIONARLE INFORMACION SOBRE AGENCIAS QUE OFRECEN SERVICIOS LEGALES A PERSONAS QUE CUMPLEN LOS REQUISITOS PARA UN HONORARIO REDUCIDO O NINGUN HONORARIO.</u></p> <p>ASOCIACION DE LICENCIADOS DE FILADELFA  SERVICO DE REFERENCIA E INFORMACION LEGAL  One Reading Center  Filadelfia, Pennsylvania 19107  Telefono: (215) 238-1701</p>
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### PARTIES

1. Plaintiff, Donald B. Georgia, Jr. (“Mr. Georgia”), is an adult individual residing at 3700 New Jersey Avenue, Unit 209, Wildwood, New Jersey 08260.
2. Defendant, National Seating and Mobility, Inc. (“National Seating”), is a corporation or other business entity, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Tennessee, with a place of business located at 1957 Pioneer Road, Building C, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania 19006.

3. Defendant, Permobil AB (“Permobil AB”), is a corporation or other business entity, organized and existing under the laws of Sweden, with its principal place of business located at 300 Duke Drive, Lebanon, Tennessee 37090.

4. Defendant, Permobil, Inc. (“Permobil”), is a corporation or other business entity, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Tennessee, with its principal place of business located at 300 Duke Drive, Lebanon, Tennessee 37090.

5. Defendant, Permobil Meditech, Inc. (“Permobil Meditech”), is a corporation or other business entity, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business located at 300 Duke Drive, Lebanon, Tennessee 37090.

6. Defendant, Permobil Pasco, LLC (“Permobil Pasco”), is a limited liability company or other business entity, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Tennessee, with its principal place of business located at 300 Duke Drive, Lebanon, Tennessee 37090.

7. Permobil AB, Permobil, Permobil Meditech and/or Permobil Pasco designed, manufactured, distributed and/or sold the F3 Corpus wheelchair (Serial Number 2520008180) prescribed to Mr. Georgia by his physician for use in his daily life activities.

8. At all times material hereto, Permobil AB, Permobil, Permobil Meditech and/or Permobil Pasco purposefully established significant contacts in Pennsylvania, carried out, and continue to carry out, substantial, continuous and systematic business activities in Pennsylvania, and regularly conduct business in Philadelphia County.

9. Defendant, Tim Flanagan (“Mr. Flanagan”), is an adult individual and resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing and/or conducting business at 1957 Pioneer Road, Building C, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania 19006.

10. Defendant, Brian Ward (“Mr. Ward”), is an adult individual and resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing and/or conducting business at 1957 Pioneer Road, Building C, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania 19006.

11. Defendant, Robert Eagle (“Mr. Eagle”), is an adult individual and resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing and/or conducting business at 1957 Pioneer Road, Building C, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania 19006.

12. Defendant, Gina Mastrogiovanni (“Ms. Mastrogiovanni”), is an adult individual and resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing and/or conducting business at 1957 Pioneer Road, Building C, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania 19006.

13. Defendant, Jim Golick (“Mr. Golick”), is an adult individual and resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing and/or conducting business at 1957 Pioneer Road, Building C, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania 19006.

14. National Seating, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Ward, Mr. Eagle, Ms. Mastrogiovanni and/or Mr. Golick distributed, sold, installed, inspected, serviced, maintained and/or repaired the F3 Corpus wheelchair (Serial Number 2520008180) prescribed to Mr. Georgia by his physician for use in his daily life activities.

15. At all times material hereto, National Seating was registered as a foreign corporation to do business in Pennsylvania.

16. At all times material hereto, National Seating, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Ward, Mr. Eagle, Ms. Mastrogiovanni and Mr. Golick purposefully established significant contacts in Pennsylvania and carried out, and continue to carry out, substantial, continuous, and systemic business activities in Pennsylvania, specifically in Philadelphia County, through National Seating’s Philadelphia branch office, which has been in existence since 2000:

## **PHILADELPHIA BRANCHFILE**

August 27, 2014

---



1957 Pioneer Road, Building C,  
Huntingdon Valley PA, 19006-2503

When opened in March 2000, National Seating & Mobility (NSM) of Philadelphia was the 45th NSM branch. Six of NSM Philadelphia's 23 employees are Assistive Technology Professionals (ATP) and Certified Rehab Technology Suppliers (CRTS). Combined, they offer 80+ years of Complex Rehab Technology (CRT) experience.

17. Permobil AB, Permobil, Permobil Meditech, Permobil Pasco, National Seating, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Ward, Mr. Eagle, Ms. Mastrogiovanni and Mr. Golick shall be collectively referred to in this Complaint as the "Defendants."

18. At all times material hereto, Defendants were acting by and through their agents, servants and/or employees who were acting within the course and scope of their agency, service and/or employment for Defendants.

19. At all times material hereto, Defendants had a duty to design, manufacture, sell, install, distribute, inspect, repair, maintain and/or service the F3 Corpus wheelchair (Serial Number 2520008180) (the "Wheelchair") prescribed to Mr. Georgia in a manner that was safe and reasonable.

## **FACTS**

### **A. Mr. Georgia's prior injuries**

20. On July 27, 2013, Mr. Georgia was involved in a motor vehicle accident in New Jersey.

21. Mr. Georgia sustained life-threatening injuries and was air lifted to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center where he underwent 16 surgeries in 6 days.

22. Mr. Georgia eventually regained the use of his arms and limited movement in his legs, but was unable to have full feeling in his feet.

23. In 2015, Mr. Georgia began treating with Dr. Abraham Alfaro at Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation ("Bacharach").

24. While at Bacharach, Mr. Georgia was able to walk with the assistance of parallel bars.

25. After Bacharach, Mr. Georgia treated with Dr. Mendel Kupfer at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital ("Magee").

26. While at Magee, Mr. Georgia's recovery progressed and he was able to leg press 350 pounds, use a stationary bike and walk with mechanical assistance.

### **B. Defendants' wheelchair**

27. Due to his prior injuries, Mr. Georgia's doctors required that he be able to raise his feet above his head in order to avoid excessive swelling in his back and feet.

28. Upon discharge from Magee, Mr. Georgia was prescribed a F3 Corpus wheelchair (the "Wheelchair") designed, manufactured, distributed and/or sold by Permobil AB, Permobil, Permobil Meditech and/or Permobil Pasco.



29. The Wheelchair had a function that allowed Mr. Georgia to tilt the chair back so that his feet would raise above his head.

30. In or around October 2016, National Seating, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Ward, Mr. Eagle, Ms. Mastrogiovanni and/or Mr. Golick delivered the Wheelchair to Mr. Georgia.

31. National Seating, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Ward, Mr. Eagle, Ms. Mastrogiovanni and/or Mr. Golick were required to maintain and service the Wheelchair.

32. At all times material hereto, Mr. Georgia used the Wheelchair in its intended manner and/or a manner reasonably foreseeable by the manufacturer.

**C. The Wheelchair malfunctions**

33. In or around March 2017, the Wheelchair's tilt function broke.

34. Mr. Georgia immediately called National Seating, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Ward, Mr. Eagle, Ms. Mastrogiovanni and/or Mr. Golick and informed them that the Wheelchair's tilt function broke.

35. Mr. Georgia advised National Seating, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Ward, Mr. Eagle, Ms. Mastrogiovanni and/or Mr. Golick that his doctors require him to raise his feet above his head in order to prevent excessive swelling in his back and feet, and that he was unable to do this as a result of the tilt function breaking.

36. National Seating, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Ward, Mr. Eagle, Ms. Mastrogiovanni and/or Mr. Golick advised Mr. Georgia that he would be "placed in line" to have the Wheelchair fixed.

37. National Seating, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Ward, Mr. Eagle, Ms. Mastrogiovanni and/or Mr. Golick failed to timely and properly fix the Wheelchair.

38. As a result of the actions and/or inactions of National Seating, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Ward, Mr. Eagle, Ms. Mastrogiovanni and/or Mr. Golick, Dr. Kupfer and/or other physicians and



medical providers attempted to contact and call National Seating numerous times to have the Wheelchair fixed.

39. Upon information and belief, Mr. Georgia's wound care doctor, Dr. Martin Carey, called National Seating and advised National Seating that Mr. Georgia was at risk of infection in his feet and having his legs amputated if the Wheelchair's tilt function is not fixed.

40. National Seating, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Ward, Mr. Eagle, Ms. Mastrogiovanni and/or Mr. Golick failed to respond to either Dr. Kupfer or Dr. Carey.

41. National Seating, Mr. Flanagan, Mr. Ward, Mr. Eagle, Ms. Mastrogiovanni and/or Mr. Golick failed fix the Wheelchair in response to repeated requests by Dr. Kupfer or Dr. Carey.

42. As a result of National's failure to fix the Wheelchair's broken tilt function, Mr. Georgia began to develop sores on his right leg.

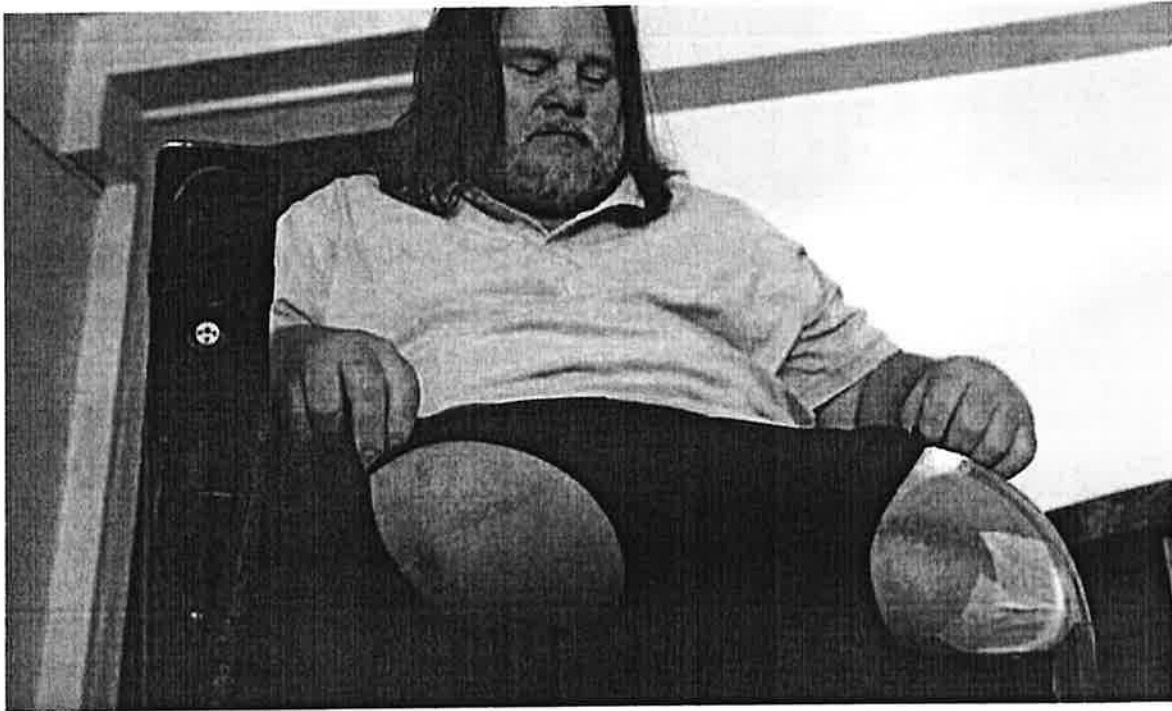
43. On June 18, 2017, Mr. Georgia presented to Dr. Carey who emergently sent Mr. Georgia to the hospital due to the sores on his leg. Mr. Georgia spent 4 days at the hospital.

44. During his stay, National Seating picked up the broken Wheelchair and gave him a replacement wheelchair while the broken Wheelchair was repaired.

45. The replacement wheelchair's tilt function was also broken. Mr. Georgia was unable to raise his feet above his head.

46. On October 24, 2017, Dr. Paul O'Donnell of Cape Regional Medical Center amputated Mr. Georgia's right leg above the knee due to sepsis caused by infections resulting from the Wheelchair's broken tilt function.

47. On April 17, 2018, Mr. Georgia's left leg above the knee was amputated in order to avoid the spread of infection.



48. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, gross negligence, carelessness, recklessness and/or any other strict liability-producing conduct, Mr. Georgia sustained devastating, severe and permanently disabling injuries, including but not limited to (i) severe sepsis and non-healing pressure wounds requiring above knee amputation of both legs; (ii) severe bilateral leg infections; (iii) severe leg edema resulting in sores and ulcers; (iv) phantom limb syndrome; (v) impaired mobility; (vi) scarring; and (vii) emotional, psychological and psychiatric injuries; and (viii) other psychological, psychiatric and orthopedic injuries, the full extent of which have yet to be determined.

49. As a direct result of Defendants' carelessness, negligence, gross negligence, recklessness and other liability and strict liability producing conduct, Mr. Georgia required, and will continue to require, surgeries, medicines, medical care and treatment, and was caused to incur, and will continue to be caused to incur, medical expenses for care and treatment.

50. As a direct result of Defendants' carelessness, negligence, gross negligence, recklessness and other liability and strict liability producing conduct, Mr. Georgia suffered, and will continue to suffer, agonizing aches, pain and mental anguish. Mr. Georgia has sustained a loss of the enjoyment of life, life's pleasures and life's hedonic pleasures past, present and future.

51. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, gross negligence, carelessness, recklessness and/or any other liability and strict liability producing conduct, Mr. Georgia has been prevented, and will be prevented in the future, from performing his usual duties, activities, occupations and avocations, and has suffered a loss of earnings and a loss of earning capacity.

52. Mr. Georgia's injuries were the direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, gross negligence, carelessness, recklessness and/or any other liability-producing conduct herein, and in no way were contributed to by Mr. Georgia.

53. Defendants are jointly and severally liable for Mr. Georgia's injuries and damages.

**COUNT I – NEGLIGENCE**  
**PLAINTIFF v. ALL DEFENDANTS**

54. All preceding paragraphs are incorporated as though fully set forth at length herein.

55. Defendants designed, assembled, manufactured, sold, supplied, distributed and/or placed into the stream of commerce the F3 Corpus wheelchair (Serial Number 2520008180) prescribed to Mr. Georgia.

56. Defendants, by and through their respective agents, servants, officers and/or employees, workers and/or contractors were jointly and severally careless, negligent and/or reckless both generally and in the following respects:

- a) failing to utilize proper designs and/or procedures for the manufacture, assembly and/or sale of the Wheelchair;
- b) Designing, assembling, manufacturing, selling, supplying, and distributing a product in defective condition;
- c) Designing, assembling, manufacturing, selling, supplying, and distributing a product that was unreasonably dangerous to the user;
- d) failing to design the Wheelchair safe for its use intended;
- e) knowingly designing, manufacturing, distributing and/or selling the Wheelchair, which was not suitable for use by the intended users;
- f) placing the Wheelchair into the stream of commerce, knowing that end users would be injured by the same;
- g) failing to properly inspect and/or test the Wheelchair in order to identify and/or correct any defective conditions discovered;
- h) failing to incorporate an alternative and safer design, materials and/or other guards or devices to minimize the risk of failure and/or injury during use of the Wheelchair;
- i) failing to provide proper and sufficient warning to intended users of the dangerous and/or defective condition of the Wheelchair;
- j) failing to recall the Wheelchair from the purchaser and/or ultimate user;
- k) failing to remove the Wheelchair from the marketplace;
- l) failing to inspect and/or maintain the Wheelchair in a reasonable and timely manner;
- m) failing to repair, service and/or maintain the Wheelchair in a reasonable and timely manner;
- n) failing to provide Mr. Georgia with a replacement wheelchair that had a properly functioning tilt function;
- o) failing to correct the defective and/or dangerous condition of the Wheelchair;
- p) failing to install, have installed and/or properly maintain safety devices on the Wheelchair;

- q) failing to inspect, repair and/or replace worn out, damaged and/or defective parts of the Wheelchair;
- r) allowing the Wheelchair to be, become and/or remain in a dangerous and/or defective condition;
- s) failing to use reasonable and/or prudent care to keep the Wheelchair in a safe and reasonable condition;
- t) failing to properly train and/or instruct employees as to the proper care, maintenance and/or repair of the Wheelchair;
- u) failing to use proper parts and/or materials in the design, manufacture, repair and/or maintenance of the Wheelchair so that the Wheelchair would function safely;
- v) Designing, assembling, manufacturing, selling, supplying, and distributing a product which could be designed more safely;
- w) Designing, assembling, manufacturing, selling, supplying, and distributing a product without simple and cost-effective safety devices;
- x) Failing to adequately and properly test said product after its design and/or assembly;
- y) Failing to investigate, retain and analyze prior accident information;
- z) Failing to investigate, retain and analyze prior accident information in order to warn and/or notify ultimate users of product defects and dangers;
- aa) failing to take feasible and reasonable precautions that would have prevented Mr. Georgia's serious injuries; and
- bb) violating the statutes, ordinances, codes and/or industry standards as to the maintenance, care, control, design, repair and/or use of the Wheelchair.

57. By reason of the Defendants' careless, negligence, gross negligence and reckless conduct, Mr. Georgia sustained serious and permanent disabling personal injuries, including those set forth above.

58. By conducting themselves as set forth above, the Defendants' acts and/or omissions were a substantial factor, a factual cause and/or increased the risk of harm of Mr. Georgia's serious and permanent injuries.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Donald Georgia, demands judgment in his favor and against Defendants, Permobil AB, Permobil, Inc., Permobil Meditech, Inc., Permobil Pasco, LLC, National Seating and Mobility, Inc., Tim Flanagan, Brian Ward, Robert Eagle, Gina Mastrogiovanni and Jim Golick, jointly and/or severally in an amount in excess of \$50,000.00, together with interest, costs and attorney fees, and other such relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

**COUNT II – STRICT LIABILITY**  
**PLAINTIFF v. ALL DEFENDANTS**

59. All preceding paragraphs are incorporated as though fully set forth at length herein.

60. Defendants, by and through their respective agents, servants, workers, contractors, designers, assemblers, manufacturers, sellers, suppliers and/or distributors, are strictly liable under § 402A of the Restatement (Second) of Torts because:

- a) Defendants are engaged in the regular business of designing, assembling, manufacturing, selling, supplying, distributing and/or placing into the stream of commerce wheelchairs, including the product which injured Mr. Georgia;
- b) The product involved in the subject incident was marketed and placed in the general stream of commerce by Defendants;
- c) The product was expected to and did reach users without substantial change in the condition in which it was designed, assembled, manufactured, sold, supplied, distributed, and/or placed into the stream of commerce; and
- d) The product was designed, assembled, manufactured, sold, supplied, distributed, and/or placed into the stream of commerce in the defective condition for the reasons set forth above.



61. In addition, the product was in a defective condition as: (i) the danger contained therein is unknowable and unacceptable to the average or ordinary consumer; and/or (ii) a reasonable person would conclude that the probability and seriousness of the harm caused by the product outweigh the burden or costs of taking precautions.

62. The defective condition of the product caused Mr. Georgia's injuries.

63. Defendants are therefore strictly liable to Mr. Georgia.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Donald Georgia, demands judgment in his favor and against Defendants, Permobil AB, Permobil, Inc., Permobil Meditech, Inc., Permobil Pasco, LLC, National Seating and Mobility, Inc., Tim Flanagan, Brian Ward, Robert Eagle, Gina Mastrogiovanni and Jim Golick, jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of \$50,000.00, together with interest, costs and attorney fees, and other such relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

**COUNT III – BREACH OF WARRANTY**  
**PLAINTIFF v. ALL DEFENDANTS**

64. All preceding paragraphs are incorporated as though fully set forth at length herein.

65. In designing, manufacturing, fabricating, marketing, promoting, selling, distributing, delivering and/or supplying the Wheelchair, Defendants jointly and/or severally impliedly warranted that the Wheelchair was merchantable, fit and safe for its intended use and the ordinary purposes for which it was sold, and that it was free from defects.

66. The Wheelchair as designed and supplied was not fit for its intended use and, as a result, Defendants breached the implied warranty of merchantability.

67. Defendants' breach of the warranty of merchantability was a substantial factor in, a factual cause of, and/or increased the risk of Mr. Georgia's serious and life-threatening injuries.



WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Donald Georgia, demands judgment in his favor and against Defendants, Permobil AB, Permobil, Inc., Permobil Meditech, Inc., Permobil Pasco, LLC, National Seating and Mobility, Inc., Tim Flanagan, Brian Ward, Robert Eagle, Gina Mastrogiovanni and Jim Golick, jointly and/or severally, in an amount in excess of \$50,000.00, together with interest, costs and attorney fees, and other such relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

**SALTZ, MONGELUZZI, BARRETT & BENDESKY, P.C.**

BY: /s/ Larry Bendesky  
LARRY BENDESKY  
ADAM J. PANTANO  
SCOTT A. FELLMETH

**VERIFICATION**

The averments or denials of fact contained in the foregoing are true based upon the signer's personal knowledge or information and belief. If the foregoing contains averments which are inconsistent in fact, signer has been unable, after reasonable investigation, to ascertain which of the inconsistent averments are true, but signer has knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief that one of them is true. This Verification is made subject to the penalties of the 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

  
DONALD GEORGIA

# **Exhibit “B”**

**AFFIDAVIT OF CHRIS JAVILLONAR**

**STATE OF TENNESSEE        )**  
**) ss.**  
**COUNTY OF WILSON         )**

I, Chris Javillonar, being of lawful age and duly sworn under oath deposes and states that:

1. I am over 18 years of age.
2. I am General Counsel for Permobil, Inc. and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.
3. Permobil, Inc. is headquartered at 300 Duke Drive, Lebanon, Tennessee.
4. Permobil, Inc. designed, manufactured and sold Plaintiff's wheelchair.
5. On January 1, 2019, Permobil, Inc. received a copy of the complaint in the mail at its address purporting to serve Permobil, Inc., Permobil Pasco, LLC, and Permobil Meditech, Inc. The correspondence listed the address for both Permobil Pasco, LLC and Permobil Meditech, Inc. as 300 Duke Drive, Lebanon, Tennessee. Permobil, Inc. received an envelope addressed to Permobil Meditech, Inc. There was not a separate envelope addressed to Permobil Pasco, LLC.
6. Permobil AB is a corporation with its principal place of business in Sweden.
7. Permobil Pasco, LLC did not design, manufacture or sell Plaintiff's wheelchair.
8. Permobil Pasco, LLC has its principal place in Pasco, Washington. It is not located at 300 Duke Drive, Lebanon, Tennessee.
9. Permobil, Inc. is not authorized to accept service on behalf of Permobil Pasco, LLC in this matter.
10. Permobil Meditech, Inc. did not design, manufacture or sell Plaintiff's wheelchair.
11. Permobil Meditech, Inc. is a dissolved corporation that no longer exists and has no principal place of business or state of incorporation.
12. When it existed prior to 2008, Permobil Meditech, Inc.'s principal place of business was located in Massachusetts and was incorporated in Delaware.
13. Permobil, Inc. is not authorized to accept service on behalf of Permobil Meditech, Inc. in this matter.

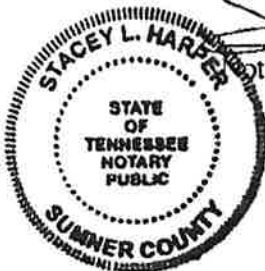
**FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.**

  
Chris Javillonar

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my official seal  
this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

My Commission Expires:

07-19-22



  
Notary Public

# Exhibit “C”

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DONALD B. GEORGIA, JR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

NATIONAL SEATING AND MOBILITY, INC.;  
PERMOBIL AB;  
PERMOBIL, INC.;  
PERMOBIL MEDITECH, INC.;  
PERMOBIL PASCO, LLC;  
TIM FLANAGAN;  
BRIAN WARD;  
ROBERT EAGLE  
GINA MASTROGIOVANNI; AND  
JIM GOLICK

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION

NO.

**DEFENDANT NATIONAL SEATING & MOBILITY, INC.'S NOTICE OF CONSENT  
TO REMOVAL**

On January 29, 2019, Plaintiff filed a Complaint for negligence, strict liability, and breach of warranty in the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas against Defendant National Seating & Mobility, Inc. ("NSM"). NSM had previously been served with a Praecipe on December 14, 2018. NSM has reviewed this Notice of Removal and consents to removal of this action to federal court.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kathleen Wilkinson

**Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP**

Two Commerce Square, 2001 Market Street, Suite 3100

Philadelphia, PA 19103

*Attorney for Defendant NSM*